

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription, please state whether renewal or new subscriber.

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Very cheerfully, Missouri went Republican, although it was an off year.

The Republican Party has always shown remarkable ability of recovery after a crushing disaster.

President Diaz is punctilious about maintaining the forms of republican government. Dec. 1 he had himself inaugurated with all ceremony for his eighth term as President.

The Missouri Democrats have so successfully gerrymandered the State that although it went Republican the Democrats elected 13 out of 16 of the Congressmen and 22 out of 34 of the Senators.

An agricultural expert would have us believe that the time is approaching when hogs will no longer roar. The more a hog is fed above the ground the less disposition he will have to hunt for food under ground.

Ex-Representative Robert H. Luce, Somerville, Mass., Chairman of the Massachusetts Commission on the cost of living, challenges Gov.-elect Foss to make good his pre-election assertions that the high cost of living was a consequence of Republican rule and the main issue in the campaign.

The convict grafters in the Pennsylvania Penitentiary had a Thanksgiving dinner, where the bankers who bribed the Pittsburgh Councilmen and the Councilmen who were bribed ate off the same turkey. They were all equal in their prison stripes and in the presence of the National bird.

The Government is not the only thing needing greater economy. Louis O. Brandeis, attorney for the shippers, notifies the Commerce Commission that he can prove by the testimony of experts that the railroads can save over \$200,000,000 a year by greater business facilities in their administration, and if his system is adopted they could raise the wages of all employees.

How "awfully things have gone up" is illustrated by the career of Jim Mack, the prizefighter, who died last week. In 1855 he was paid to fight for \$5-\$25. Three years later he wanted 10 times as much—\$250. In 1870 he got \$2,000 for a 10-round battle, and in his last battle, in 1871, \$2,000 was hung up. Nowadays our fighters want about \$100,000.

Justice seems to be tolerably sure after all. Abraham Ruef, the San Francisco grafter, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, but escaped on a technicality, and has since been making money in mining. Last week the District Court of Appeals reached his case and affirmed a 14-year prison sentence against him, which will stop his business activities for some time.

The efforts of the Germans to muzzle their two talkative Emperors are exceedingly funny from one aspect. The Germans are in dead earnest, however. Two or three years ago they put the soft pedal down on him very emphatically, and he kept quiet until his famous "divine right" speech at Konigsberg, Aug. 26. This has stirred up the Germans more than ever, and they are talking to him like the proverbial Dutch uncle. He has been plainly told that he is making rapid progress toward a German Republic. The Germans are more naturally and thoroughly republican than any other people on the continent, and it is only a question of time when they convert their country into a real Republic, as Great Britain is, and the Kaiser reduced to the same figurehead that the King of England has been for the last century.

The Boston Transcript pays this well-deserved tribute to Gen. Sikes:

Gen. Sikes, who comes to Boston as guest of the Hooker Memorial Association, is a living proof, if any were needed, that old men cannot only do somewhat, but a great deal. He is now in his 85th year, longevity of which he gives no hint in his manner and little in his appearance. Like John Higelow, who at 92 has just published a new book, Gen. Sikes is a living link with the great past full of vitality, preserving the youthfulness of mind in advanced old age. He is among the last survivors of the general officers of the army of the Union, and his fighting record is full of moving incidents of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, great battles, when giants met in combat. The much-discussed, much controverted battles of the Spanish War were but skirmishes compared to the mighty wrestling of the North and South. One of the stoutest of the soldiers of the Union, Gen. Sikes had a career that ought to satisfy the demands of the most strenuous, since it was full of crowded hours.

PENSION LEGISLATION.

General Orders No. 4 by Commander-in-Chief Gilman, contains much of the latest interest to veterans. Paragraph 1 reads:

In order that all comrades may have authoritative and accurate information of the action of the last National Encampment regarding pensions, the following is published:

The Committee on Pensions recommended in their report that the Encampment "indorse the bill presented by the Hon. P. J. McCumber, granting a pension of \$12 a month to widows; also a bill to increase ratings of army forces on the lines of the McCumber age act." This committee also suggested that the Pension Committee be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief be charged with the consideration of a bill to increase the ratings of pensioners above seventy years of age and submit a report, with recommendations, to the Executive Committee of the Council of Administration for its action.

The report of this committee was referred to the Committee on Resolutions, who reported the following:

Resolved, That our Pension Committee be, and they are hereby requested to consider and, if possible, to procure the passage of an amendment to the age act of 1907, so as to give a rating of \$12 at sixty-two years of age, \$15 at sixty-six years of age, \$20 at seventy years of age, and \$25 at seventy-five years of age, and where the pensioner, or soldier or sailor, is or becomes physically incapacitated for labor, he shall be placed on the pension roll at \$20 a month, and we approve of the report of the Committee on Pensions, save as modified by this resolution.

One member of the Committee on Resolutions dissented, and moved the adoption of a resolution favoring "the enactment of a law giving to every honorably discharged Union soldier or sailor during the late war a pension at the rate of a dollar a day."

It will be observed that the points in which the report of the Pension Committee are modified are:

1. Increasing the age for increasing the rating from \$12 to \$15 a month to sixty-two.
2. Specifying \$20 and \$25 per month at the ages of seventy and seventy-five, respectively, as the increased ratings of pensioners above seventy years of age.
3. Adding a special rate of \$30 per month for physical incapacity for labor, regardless of age.

The net result is that the National Encampment now stands for the following pension measures:

1. To increase the rate for soldiers and sailors under the act of 1907 from \$12 to \$15 a month at the age of sixty-six years, from \$15 to \$20 at the age of seventy, and from \$20 to \$25 at seventy-five, and to give a rating of \$30 per month, regardless of age, in case of physical incapacity for labor.

2. To extend the provisions of the act of 1907 to include all who at the time of the husband's death had maintained marital relations with him for three years. (Under the present law the widow must have married the soldier prior to July 31, 1890.)

3. To increase the ratings of army nurses along the lines of the McCumber age act; that is to say, to make the nurse's pension the same as the soldier's, so far as age is concerned.

The Pension Committee will be instructed to prepare bills in accordance with the foregoing instructions, and present them to Congress at the coming session, and use all proper means for their passage. In this work let us not offend wisdom and invite failure by divided counsel or effort. The National Encampment having spoken clearly and with impressive emphasis, it is the duty of every comrade to unite in carrying out its will with that solidarity which makes for success.

The National Tribune urges in the strongest terms the heartiest compliance with the Commander-in-Chief's recommendations. We cannot too deeply impress upon our readers that this is the only hope of getting any additional legislation this winter, possibly for some years.

The President and Congress are favorably disposed toward the legislation recommended by the National Encampment. If we can throw the entire weight of the Grand Army, and of the friends of veterans in favor of this, we can have every hope of securing its passage by this session of Congress.

To secure this will bring wide-reaching and immediate benefits to much-deserving veterans and their widows all over the country. Consequently it is a duty that should appeal in the most powerful way to every veteran and friend of a veteran. Let us drop everything else and present to Congress a solid and unbroken front in favor of the National Encampment bill. Success for it is within our reach, and success means everything to our comrades and their widows at this time. No matter how meritorious comrades may consider other pension measures, no matter how much they may think of their greater justice, they should put these into abeyance to unite on something which is plain, practical and of which there is a prospect of attainment. We can discuss other pension legislation after we have secured the passage of this. It is not a question of what we ought to have, but what we can get, and what we can get at once. To "get at once" overtops all other considerations, because our needy comrades and their widows cannot wait. What is given them must be given speedily to do them any good. Once more, let us say with all emphasis that can be given words, to drop everything else and concentrate our efforts upon the National Encampment Pension bill.

The Commander-in-Chief announces the appointment of the following Committee on Pensions:

Samuel S. Burdett, Chairman, Washington, D. C.
John R. King, Washington, D. C.
William M. Olin, Boston, Mass.
Henry A. Axline, Columbus, O.
Joseph A. Goulden, New York, N. Y.

This is a very able committee and will do all that is possible to carry out the wishes of the National Encampment. Comrades Burdett and King are Past Commanders-in-Chief and well-known to the comrades all over the country. Comrade William M. Olin is Past Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and Secretary of State for Massachusetts. Comrade Axline is Commander of the Department of Ohio, G. A. R., and could have been re-elected but he positively refused a re-nomination. Thus it will be seen that all of the comrades on this committee are men of the greatest fitness for the work before them.

Let the comrades everywhere and at once manifest their high approval of the Commander-in-Chief's recommendations by sending the indorsements of the National Encampment Pension Bill, petitions in its favor, etc., to Comrade S. S. Burdett, Washington, D. C., the Chairman of the committee.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Taft's annual message to Congress was read before Senate and House Tuesday afternoon. It is a careful review of his stewardship during the last twelve months and gives an interesting outline of his plans and purposes with reference to various administration activities. The message has made a better impression, probably, than any other communication that Mr. Taft as President has forwarded to the legislative department of the Government.

His attitude on many topics which he covers is already fairly well understood, but he treats these with information that is fresh and up-to-date. He declares strongly for tariff revision, schedule by schedule, whenever the Tariff Board completes its investigations and is ready to report. That will not be, however, he says, at the present session of Congress. He urges further conservation legislation strongly along the line of his St. Paul address. A ship subsidy enactment for South American lines is mentioned as deserving immediate attention.

The message opens with extended reference to the triumph of arbitration. The President says "the year has been notable as witnessing the pacific settlement of two important international controversies before the permanent court of the Hague." In discussing the fisheries arbitration there, the President writes that he would be "wanting in proper recognition of a great patriotic service" if he did not refer to "the lucid historical analysis of the facts and the signal ability and force of argument—six days in length—presented to the court in support of our case by Mr. Elihu Root."

He recommends the ratification of a protocol to strengthen the Prize Court Convention, states that he has not appointed Peace Commissioners because he is waiting for foreign governments to express a willingness to co-operate, and dwells upon the importance of treaties negotiated with Great Britain during the past year.

In reviewing the country's diplomatic relations, he mentions the negotiations for the Hukwang loan to the Chinese Government and negotiations between the Chinese Government and American bankers for a loan of \$50,000,000 "to be employed chiefly in currency reform." The President says the Government's policy has been "directed by a desire to make use of American capital in the development of China and an instrument in the promotion of China's welfare and material prosperity."

Considerable space is devoted to Latin-American topics, such as the celebration by southern Republics of their hundredth anniversary, the Fourth Pan-American Conference at Buenos Aires,

the boundary dispute between Peru and Ecuador, the Mexican Boundary Commission, the arrangement of the public debt of Honduras, and the interlocking struggle in Nicaragua. The President says "the moderation and conciliatory spirit shown by various factions give ground for the confident hope that Nicaragua will soon take its rightful place among the law-abiding and progressive countries of the world." He announces with gratification the fact that Argentina, some months ago, placed with American manufacturers the contract to build two battleships.

The tariff settlements with various countries, under the maximum and minimum provision of the Payne law, were made, the President says, "with marked advantage to the commerce of the United States." The negotiations with Canada in that connection, he adds, have been followed by a further "discussion of the commercial interests of the two countries" to obtain a "satisfactory basis for a trade arrangement which offers the prospect of a free interchange for the products of the two countries." The conferences will be resumed at Washington next month.

The President points out that unless prompt action be taken to establish direct lines of communication by ships to Latin America, "the completion of the Panama Canal will find this the only great commercial nation unable to avail in international maritime business of this great contribution to the means of the world's commercial intercourse." The message deals with estimates and expenditures in some detail. The estimates as made up by Cabinet officials for Congress comprise a total of \$369,494,913.12, which is \$52,964,887.36 less than the appropriations voted at the last session of Congress.

The President advocates changes in the business methods of the Treasury Department, which require legislation to be made effective. "The auditing system in vogue," he says, "is as old as the Government, and the methods used are antiquated. He would change the organization of customs districts, and favors abolishing several customs offices. The cost of collecting \$1 at the port of York, Maine, the President states, is \$50.04; at Annapolis, Md., \$209.41; at Alexandria, Va., \$122.49. The Secretary of the Treasury "has abolished 100 places in the Civil Service without at all injuring its efficiency."

The President recommends some method "for controlling the supply of public buildings, so that they will harmonize with the actual needs of the Government." He says he approved of the last Public Building bill, for the same reason that he approved the last River and Harbor bill, "because of the many good features it contained," but he is convinced that "it was drawn upon a principle that ought to be abandoned." He urges that future public building bills be prepared on a report by a Commission of Government experts as

to the needs of various localities for public building facilities, just as he is urging the preparation of River and Harbor bills, on a similar report by army engineers.

The paragraph on the Payne tariff act was scrutinized with exceptional interest at the Capitol, because of the promise of that law as an issue in current politics. "The schedules of the rates of duty in the Payne tariff act," the President writes, "have been subjected to a great deal of criticism, some of it just more of it unfounded, and to much misrepresentation." He says that little, if any, of the criticism of the tariff has been directed against the protective principle; "but the main body of the criticism has been based on the charge that the attempt to conform to the measure of protection was not honestly and sincerely adhered to. The time in which the tariff was prepared undoubtedly was so short as to make it impossible for the Congress and its experts to acquire the information necessary strictly to conform to the declared measure." He then details the work of the Tariff Board to develop the information now required.

"The method of impartial scientific study by experts as a preliminary to legislation" which the President wants adopted with reference to tariff, public buildings and river and harbor improvements, he also urges, in consideration "of our banking and currency system." He says "the problem is not partisan, is not sectional, it is national." The President recommends a commission to determine as early as practicable a comprehensive policy for the organization, mobilization and administration of the Regular Army and the organized militia. He asks Congress to authorize additional commissioned officers. He discusses the Panama Canal, brings up the question of reasonable tolls, maintenance and management, and recommends that railroads be prohibited from owning or controlling ships engaged in trade through the waterway. He renews his request for national incorporation, asks for legislation to cheapen the cost of litigation by simplifying judicial procedure, would have the Supreme Court relieved of a large burden of appeals which it now hears, and requests that Supreme Court Justices be given salaries of \$17,000, with commensurate increases for the judges of the lower federal courts. He also renews his "urgent recommendation" of last year for an injunction bill.

Postmaster General Hitchcock is praised for his achievements in economizing the expenditures of the postal service, which have gone far toward wiping out the annual deficit. The extension of the classified service, the restriction of the franking privilege and other reforms accomplished or proposed are taken up. The President recommends parcels post on rural delivery routes and an increase in the postage on advertising matter in magazines.

He also supports the recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy for the abolition of certain navy yards and for a four-year term for the Commandant of Marines. He likewise recommends "fitting recognition by Congress of the great achievement of Robert Edwin Peary" in discovering the North Pole.

The President repeats his recommendations for the enactment of legislation to transfer the water power sites on public lands to the States, and for leasing coal, oil, and phosphate lands. He asks for a Commission form of government for Alaska, and discusses pensions for the veterans of the civil war. Modifications of the eight-hour law, an appropriation of \$10,000 toward the expenses for an International Congress on Industrial Insurance to be held in Washington in 1913; a Bureau of Health and the establishment of a Government park on the Virginia side of the Potomac, within territory that originally was part of the District of Columbia, are included in numerous other recommendations of the message.

The paragraph about pensions reads as follows: "The uniform policy of the Government in the matter of granting pensions to those gallant and devoted men who fought to save the life of the Nation in the perilous days of the great civil war has always been of the most liberal character. Those men are now rapidly passing away. The best obtainable official statistics show that they are dying at the rate of something over 3,000 a month, and in view of their advancing years, this rate must inevitably, in proportion, rapidly increase. To the man who risked everything on the field of battle to save the Nation in the hour of its direst need we owe a debt which has not been and should not be computed in a begrudging or parsimonious spirit. But while we should be actuated by the spirit to the soldier himself, care should be exercised not to go to absurd lengths or distribute the bounty of the Government to classes of persons who may, at this late day, from a more mercenary motive, seek to obtain some legal relation with an old veteran now tottering on the brink of the grave. The true spirit of the pension laws is to be found in the noble sentiments expressed by Mr. Lincoln in his last inaugural address, wherein, in speaking of the Nation's duty to its soldiers whom the struggle should be over, he said 'we should care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphans.'

The decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals that Spencer F. Shottor must pay a fine of \$5,000 and spend three months in jail, and that J. F. C. Myers must pay \$2,500 and be imprisoned three months has a tang to it sharper than usual in criminal court proceedings. This comes from the fact that these gentlemen are the head of the great Turpinette Trust. They would have taken the heavy fines with a grin, as meaning one-up loss, or an abridgment of a European trip. But three months in jail! That has a clammy heart-kick that no loss of money could produce. It spells loss of social status, a frizzling of business reputation. A man emerges from jail with his standing in the community rickety and tottering. It will take the rest of his life to make people forget that he was once a common criminal.

A HISTORY OF TEXAS.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt is to write a comprehensive history of the State of Texas, and make it a work worthy of that great State. There are a great many episodes in the history of Texas which would make interesting reading.

For example, the attempt of the English to establish there a German principality on the model of those which existed in Germany before the consolidation of the Empire. A Princelet was sent over, who established his court at Sophtenburg, where he had his palace, his theater and his bodyguard. The idea of England at the time was to make Texas a "buffer State" between the United States and Mexico. A great many Germans were sent over, but they found their Prince an expensive luxury, entirely unnecessary to a pioneer community, and he was fired back to his native land. The Texas war for independence was a brilliant episode, with a great deal of hard fighting, some massacres and some decisive victories. The way some lobbyists in Washington managed to saddle the Texas bonds and other obligations upon the United States Treasury will be an interesting reminder that graft was a good deal worse 75 years ago than it is to-day. Col. Roosevelt will find in Sam Houston a man after his own heart, one of unflinching courage, of high determination and who manfully breasted the wave of secession until he was overthrown by it. The story of Gen. Twiggs's surrender of very nearly half of the United States Army to the Texas Secessionists will be one of the most unpleasant chapters that the Colonel will have to deal with.

THE NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTION.

The New Mexico Constitutional Convention has finished, and the document will be submitted to the people for ratification some time in January. The Republicans were in majority in the Convention, and succeeded in having a reasonably brief organic law framed. It contained 29,990 words, divided into 29 articles and 300 sections. The leading obligations are that the State, County and Municipal officers will be elected for four years. State officers are prohibited from accepting offices or other favors from railroads and corporations. Women can vote at school elections, and lands granted to the State may be sold at a minimum price of \$10 per acre, the money to go to educational purposes. All able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 are subject to military duty. Polygamous marriages and cohabitation are forever prohibited. Bribery of any officer or legislator is a felony. The seat of Government shall remain at Santa Fe until Dec. 31, 1925, when it can be changed by two-thirds vote at special election. New railroads are exempted from taxation for six years after their completion, and also factories, smelters, reduction works, pumping plants for irrigation and irrigation works. The Constitution can be amended by majority vote, and only three amendments can be submitted every eight years. A fourth normal school is provided for by setting aside 20,000 acres of land.

Most of the men who are attacking The National Tribune do not take the paper and rarely see it. They are ignorant of the features in it which have made it so attractive to its half-million weekly readers, and gathered around it the most devoted friends that any paper in the United States rejoices in. These critics are so wrapped up in themselves and their superior merits in crushing the rebellion, that they have no interest in what others did. The most of the men who are attacking St. Cloud never saw the place, and prefer to believe, or pretend to believe, the slanders of some blackmailer rather than accept the statements of hundreds of good comrades who have made their homes in St. Cloud and are enthusiastic as to the town's present and future.

Comrade Wm. J. Vannort, Commander, Department of Maryland, G. A. R., takes up the question of recruiting for the G. A. R. in his General Orders, No. 7, and says:

"The Commander specially requests and urges the Post officers and comrades to use their best efforts to arouse an enthusiasm in their respective Posts and encourage active recruiting. Every comrade should assist the Chief Recruiting Officer, Comrade A. A. Reese, and each comrade should endeavor to secure at least one recruit during the coming year."

Comrade DeWitt C. Hurd, Department of New York, G. A. R., warns the comrades in his General Order No. 7, against a swindler who is masquerading as J. H. Johnson or B. F. Patterson, and claiming to belong to a Post in New York. His usual racket is to say that he has been to North Carolina to purchase ties for some Eastern railroad and lost his pocket-book and ticket for New York. He calls upon comrades to help him out. In this way he got some money out of L. W. Callahan, Superintendent of the Seven Pines Cemetery, and from Charles H. Haber, Past Commander of the Department of Virginia, G. A. R. The said Johnson, alias Patterson, dresses well, is educated, and has the manners and appearance of a gentleman.

One of the startling surprises of the election was the 19th Ohio District going Democratic. This district, which comprises the Counties of Ashtabula, Geauga, Portage, Summit and Trumbull, with a population of 213,744, was settled largely by Connecticut and other New England Yankees, and since the beginning of politics has been adamant in its abolitionism and Republicanism. It was the home of the stalwart Benjamin F. Wade and that uncompromising Abolitionist, Joshua R. Giddings, Representative in 12 Congresses. Wm. Aubrey Thomas, who has served in four Congresses, was re-elected two years ago by a plurality of nearly 10,000.

E. D. Coe, 805 Lucas avenue, St. Louis, Mo., says that our list of Representatives is incorrect in giving Kinney, Democrat, as Representative from the 12th Missouri District. It should be Dyer, Republican. All three St. Louis districts went Republican, making a gain of two.

ST. ANDREWS BAY COLONY.

The National Tribune, as trustee, is now receiving subscriptions for town lots and five-acre tracts in the new Florida colony, located in Washington County.

Washington County is recognized as being in the best general farming and trucking section of Florida, and yet not too far north to raise grape-fruit, oranges, and many other sub-tropical products.

The first townsite will be located on St. Andrews Bay, the largest and best natural harbor on the Florida coast.

The United States Government has authorized the expenditure of more than a quarter of a million dollars for the improvement of this harbor and the deepening of the channel. This work will begin at an early date.

The following prices hold good for a short time only:

One town lot, 50x150, and a five-acre tract of farming land outside the townsite and one share of the capital stock (par value \$100.00) of the St. Andrews Bay Development Company for \$100.00.

Two town lots and two five-acre tracts, the latter constituting a solid body of ten acres and two shares of the capital stock (par value \$100.00 each) of the St. Andrews Bay Development Company for \$200.00.

Three town lots and three five-acre tracts, the latter constituting a solid body of fifteen acres and three shares of the capital stock (par value \$100.00 each) of the St. Andrews Bay Development Company for \$300.00.

Four town lots and four five-acre tracts, the latter constituting a solid body of twenty acres and four shares of the capital stock (par value \$100.00 each) of the St. Andrews Bay Development Company for \$400.00.

The above offer holds good only until the first assignment of property has been made. The share of stock will not be offered to later subscribers. Prices will also be sharply advanced.

Surveys of the Colony lands are rapidly nearing completion. Assignment of property will be made immediately after the surveys are completed.

This will be your last opportunity to secure property at these prices. Address THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

PENSIONS FOR STEEL EMPLOYEES.

The United Steel Corporation has followed the example of the great railroads in adopting a pension system for its employees. Pensions will be given to disabled employees and for those retired after an age limit of 60 to 70 years, having passed 20 or more years in the service of the company. There is a fund of \$12,000,000, partly appropriated by the steel company and partly from a sum provided by Mr. Carnegie. To men who have reached the age of 70 and women at 60 are compulsorily retired. No pension of more than \$1,200 will be allowed, and none less than \$12 a month. Between these extremes 1 per cent of the regular monthly pay received during the last 10 years of service will be allowed for each year of total service.

There is deep regret among the veterans as well as among his constituents and in Congress at the determination of Representative Joseph A. Goulden to not accept a fifth term. The very strongest pressure has been put upon him to induce him to reconsider, but he remains inflexible. He feels that the time has come for a little recreation, and his mind is set on a trip around the world. Comrade Goulden is a man who has filled his life very full with the best activities. He was born in Pennsylvania, but served creditably thru the war in a Maryland regiment and later took up his residence in New York City, where he made a great success in business. He kept in touch with his comrades, has been an active Grand Army man and repeatedly urged to become Commander of the Department of New York, G. A. R. He was Secretary and a member of the Commission that erected the Soldiers and Sailors' Monument in Riverside Park, New York, at a cost of \$300,000. He was elected as a Democrat to the 58th Congress, and has been regularly re-elected ever since with increasing majorities. At his last re-election he received a plurality of 10,000 votes over his Republican competitor, and had a majority over all the candidates in the field. His retirement from public life will be a distinct loss in many ways.

The next Annual Encampment of the Department of Florida, G. A. R., will be held at Kissimmee Feb. 14. It was intended to hold it on the anniversary of Lincoln's birth, but that comes this year on Sunday. The Department of Florida is growing rapidly, owing to the number of veterans coming into the State. There are now 35 Posts in the Department, and new ones are being organized every week. Kissimmee is alive to the importance of the event, and is making great preparations for entertaining the veterans.

Comrade N. H. Kingman, Department of South Dakota, G. A. R., Selby, S. D., was given the appointment by the Governor to represent the State at the Seventh National Rivers and Harbors Congress, to convene in Washington, Dec. 7-9, 1910, but he found that his Grand Army arrangements would prevent him from accepting and he declined.

Past Commander-in-Chief Henry M. Nevius has been seriously ill for three weeks, but is now up and able to attend to his usual duties. This will be gratifying news to the comrades everywhere who have a deep interest in anything relating to Commander Nevius. During his administration as Commander-in-Chief he got very near the comrades everywhere, and they learned to know and love him.

THINKS IT A WONDER.

Mr. Hardy Was an Original Subscriber to the St. Cloud Colony, and Now Invests Also in St. Andrew's Bay.

1331 N. Limestone Street, Springfield, O., Dec. 1, 1910. National Tribune, Washington, D. C. Gentlemen: Enclosed please find my check for \$100.00 in payment for lot, five-acre tract and one share of stock in Company of St. Andrews Bay. I was in your first allotment at St. Cloud, and have also stock in the St. Cloud bank. Have just paid a visit to St. Cloud, taking my wife there for the winter, and probably I shall go down to stay later on. I think St. Cloud is a wonder, and feel that the Company have nobly lived up to their promises. Kindly acknowledge receipt of check. Respectfully yours—H. Ernest Hardy.

THE WHOLE TRUTH.

A Voluntary Tribute to the Progressive-ness of St. Cloud From One Who Went to See It in Person and Then Increased His Holdings.

St. Cloud, Nov. 20, 1910. The National Tribune: It is said "To be out of the fashion is to be out of the world." As the fashion seems to be writing of St. Cloud, I thought I would fall in line and let The National Tribune and possibly the Rural New Yorker know what two old Pennsylvanians think of the colony.

The R. N. Y. had me almost persuaded by letters written to its publisher's desk that this colony was planted in a hopeless swamp, where nothing was produced but snakes and alligators. Well, we came to see for ourselves, my husband and I, and you may know what we thought of it when I tell you that after a two weeks' stay we added to our holdings by buying a house and two lots and another five acres. Our first holdings were beautifully located on high ground, and we think them fine. Around us are gardens producing almost everything needed in the vegetable line as well as roses and other flowers. We visited a grapefruit orchard just at the edge of the town, and saw trees from one to five years old loaded with perfect fruit which was literally sweeping the earth with its weight, and the owner told us he used but little fertilizer and in some cases none at all. I saw sweet potatoes weighing seven and 11 pounds and taken from a garden just near to our place. Houses are going up in all directions, and the sound of hammer and saw can be heard at all times. Business men seem to be doing well and have some fine stores. There are good hotels, and while there are many inconveniences incidental to a new town, yet St. Cloud is a very vigorous infant and is getting firmly on its feet. The health of the place is remarkable, in my estimation, when one considers how very many are past their three score and ten.

And now a word more to what is already a lengthy letter: I want to say we have a good brass band, so that even lovers of good music can have "no kick coming" because their tastes have not been considered. What more need be said? Only this: This is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as I see it. So, which St. Cloud grow.—Mrs. J. K. Houston.

RAINY ST. CLOUD.

A Comrade Finds It Delightful to Get Back There From Snowy, Windy New York.

The National Tribune: I have just got back to St. Cloud from western New York, and I am glad to get back, as when I left the ground was covered with snow and a cold west wind blowing that would chill you to the bone. I found the comrades well and happy and seemed pleased with their surroundings. The town has grown away beyond my expectations. They are building some very fine homes here. There are under construction over 100 new houses, also foundations for new ones every day. They have also commenced to build sidewalks which will be a great improvement to our town. Say, comrade, but the climate is grand. In one-half hour after sunrise you can go around in your shirt sleeves and enjoy yourself. Now, comrade, what I started to tell you. After my arrival here I received your beautiful book, "The Struggle for Missouri," which I truly appreciate, as I feel it an honor to receive such a gift from my comrades of Andersonville Prison pen. I have just been over to the new churches, the Methodist and Presbyterian. They are both of beautiful style, also the new school house, which is nearly completed. I was terribly put out that you got left as Commander of the grandest organization of thousands of men every day. They have also commenced to